

Seabrook Island Shorebird Initiatives

Seabrook Island Birders

January 13, 2020

Nancy Brown, Judy Morr, Joleen Ardaiole, Mark Andrews, Aija & Ed Konrad



Piping Plover — North Beach

*Photos by Ed Konrad
All taken on Seabrook Island*

Agenda

- ◆ Seabrook Island Birders
- ◆ North Beach – Critical Habitat & Dog Rules
- ◆ Piping Plover “personal” stories
- ◆ Red Knots & research
- ◆ Stewardship



American Oystercatcher – North Beach

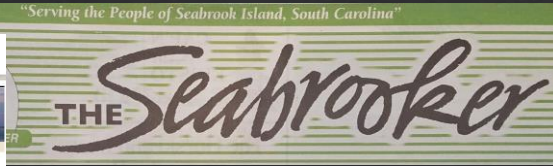
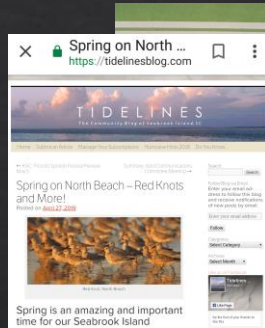


Seabrook Island Birders

watching
learning
protecting

Founded 2016 - 249 members today!

Community Awareness



Stewardship



Brochures

Respect Seabrook Island shorebirds & habitat!



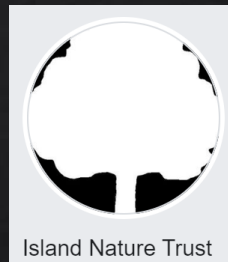
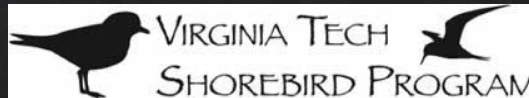
Give the birds space: Resting and feeding are critical to survival of migratory and wintering birds. If birds run or fly, you are too close!

Keep out of posted areas & dunes: Birds can be nesting, disturbance causes egg & chick loss.

Be a Bird Friendly Dog Owner: Keep dogs on leash when near bird flocks. Don't allow dogs to chase, it stresses the birds & saps their energy for migration. Please follow Seabrook's dog rules.



Human disturbance harms shorebirds ...their survival depends on you!



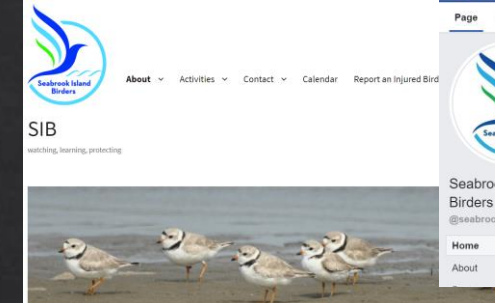
Island Nature Trust



Partnerships



Member Website & Facebook



Learning Together



Evening Programs



*Where the
shorebirds are*

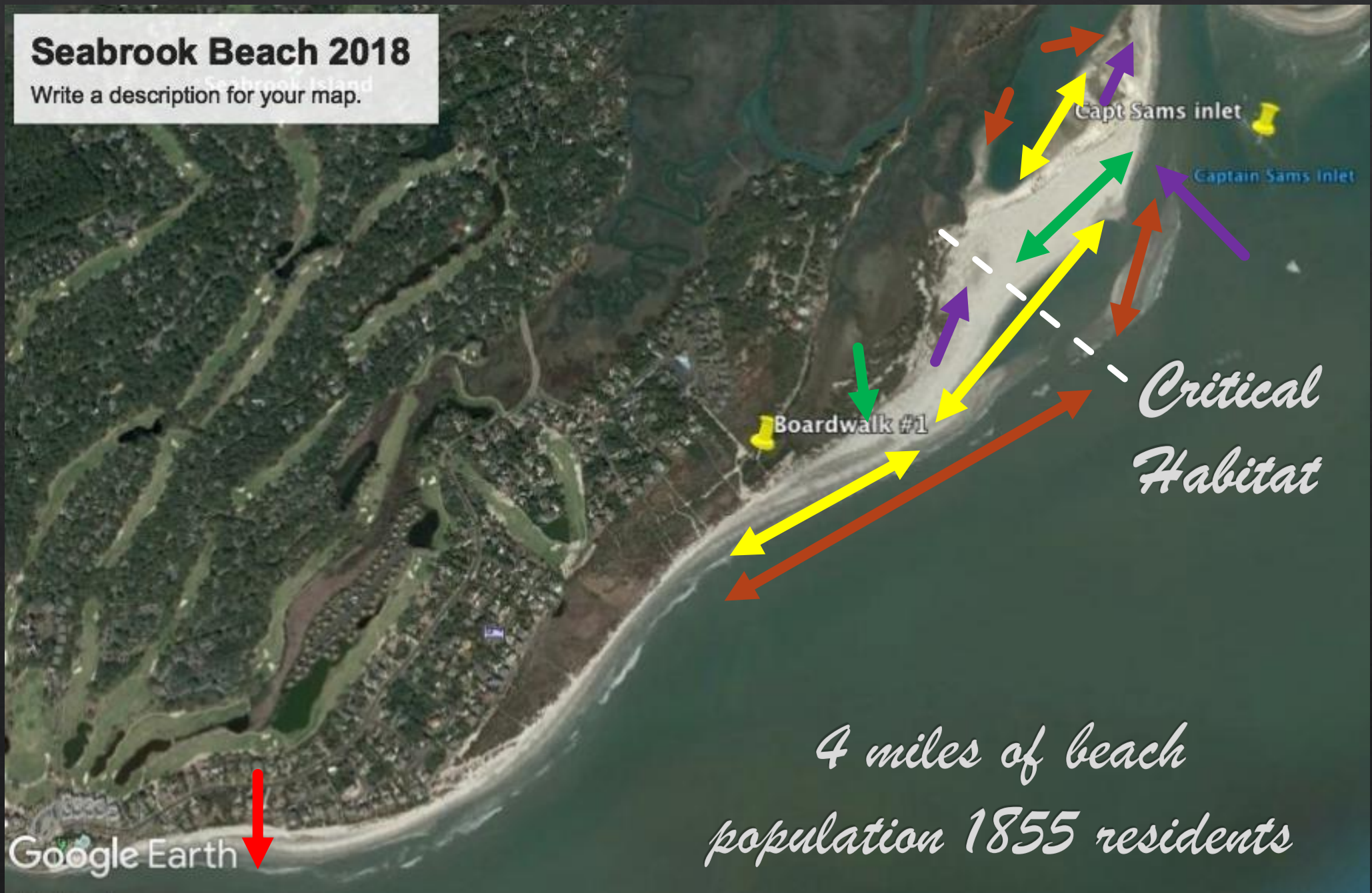


Other Shorebirds

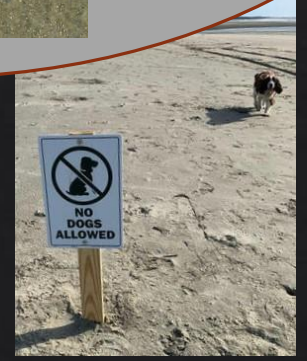


Seabrook Beach 2018

Write a description for your map.



*Balancing
interests & needs*



Beach Rules for Pets

Restricted Area

NO PETS ALLOWED

Limited Restriction Area

Pets must be on a leash at all times

General Beach Area

Peak Season (April 1 – September 30)

Pets must be on a leash between 10 AM & 5 PM

Pets may be off-leash before 10 AM & after 5 PM

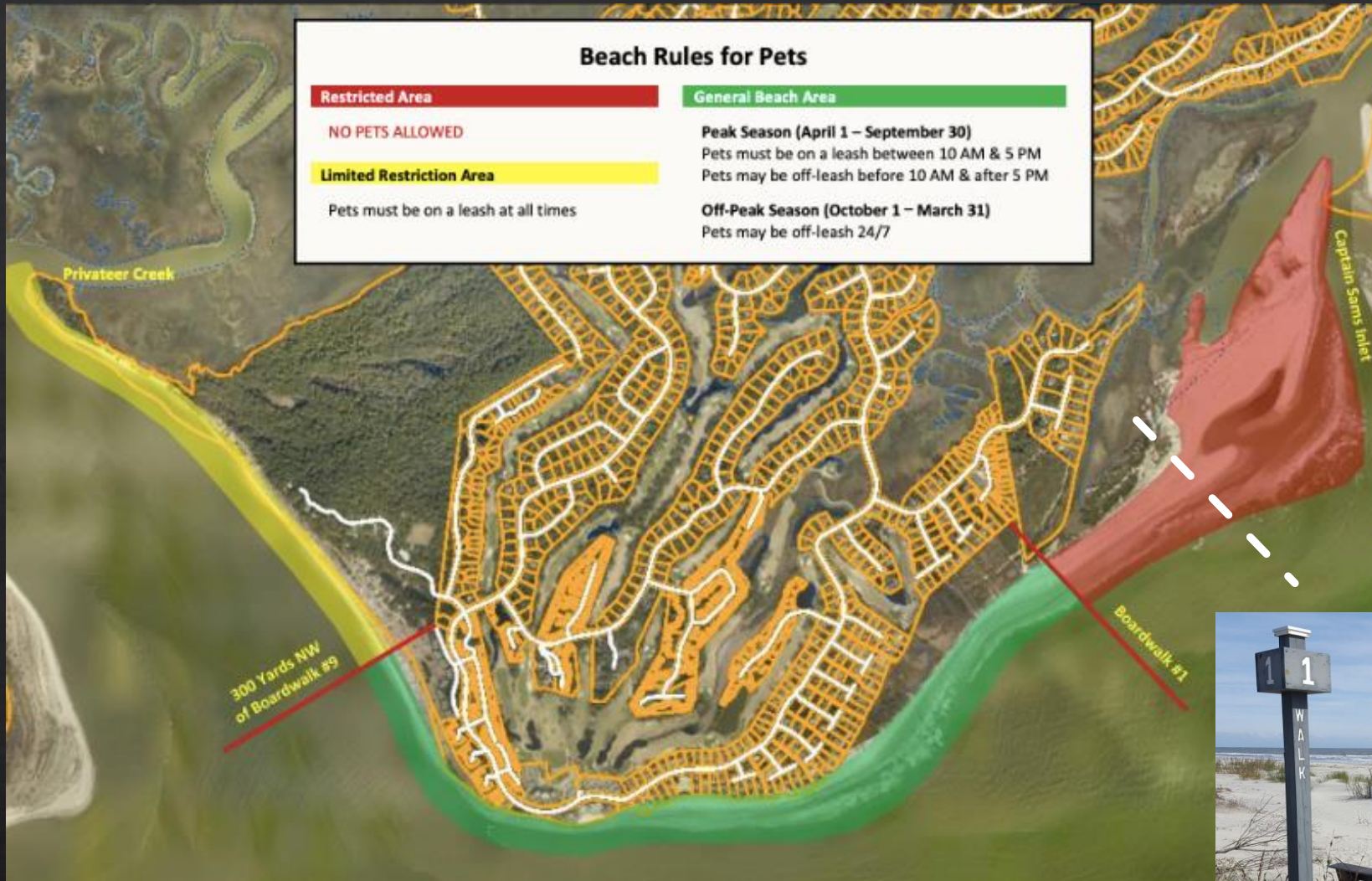
Off-Peak Season (October 1 – March 31)

Pets may be off-leash 24/7

Win/Win!!!

Critical Habitat

= Red





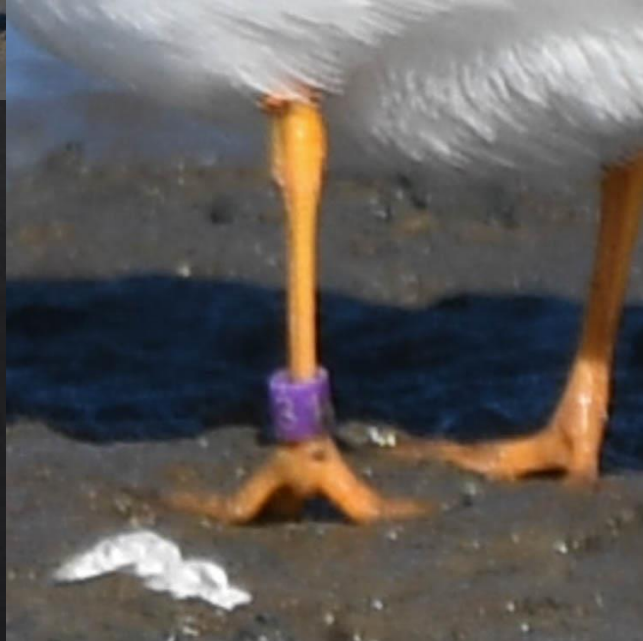
Who am I?

Piping Plover “personal” stories



Alice...”Purple? #? If yes very exciting!

Piping Plover “personal” stories – “be safe Little V!”



Alice... "**You've proved it!** This is the chick we named "**Little V**" from our Point Betsie nest. **It's the only one that fledged. i.e. survived, from this new 2019 Lake Michigan nesting area.** It's a very busy and narrow beach just south of the Point Betsie Lighthouse"

Alice Van Zoeren
Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation Team
Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, MI

“Personal” stories - Returning winter guests, our 9 month responsibility



Great Lakes Region



Atlantic Canada Region

*Spotted/photographed on North Beach
on same day in 2019 and 2018*

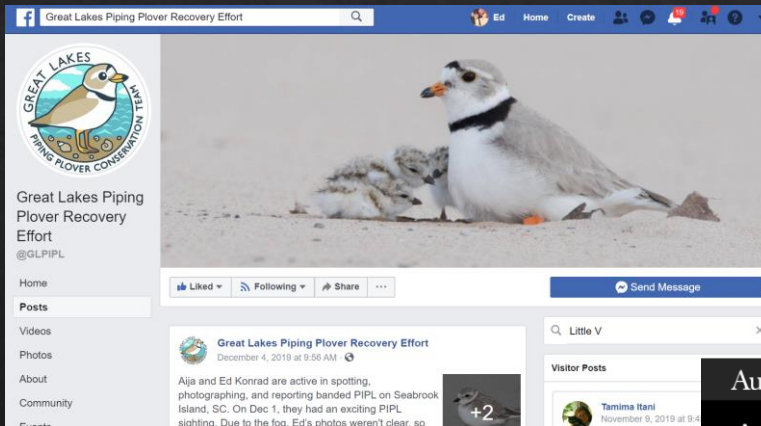
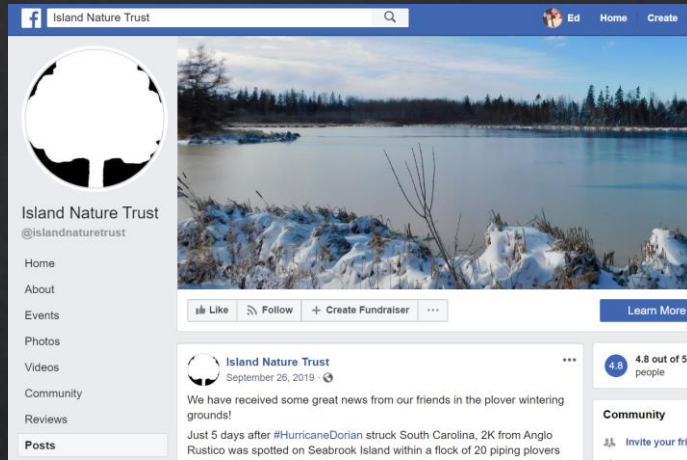
*Like the film - “Same Time Next Year”
Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn?*

Alice... “She wasn't banded as a chick, so we don't know when/where she hatched. She began breeding in 2018 at Grand Marais, MI, banded at that time. In 2019 the crew **banded 3 of her chicks. I don't know how many of them fledged.**”

Vicki... “2K banded as adult male May 2018 at North Rustico Sandbar PEI, He had 3 nest attempts in 2019 with **the same mate as last year. On 3rd attempt, they laid 3 eggs and fledged all three chicks!**”

Vicki Johnson, PIPL Coordinator
Island Nature Trust, PEI, Canada

Piping Plover “personal” stories



Audubon » Atlantic Flyway » South Carolina

Audubon South Carolina

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An amazing Piping Plover sighting on Seabrook Island North Beach

Aija and Ed Konrad share their stories from Seabrook Island



Feedback – it's working!



*SCDNR Red Knot Banding - Seabrook North Beach - 4000-8000 flock
Migration Mar-May, 9000 miles SA-Arctic to breed, 75% decline, Federally Threatened*



*Per SC DNR – Seabrook/Kiawah knots -
largest single flock in eastern US
Research and NanoTags show direct flight
SC to Arctic vs. Delaware Bay*



*Our other North Beach
Shorebirds...declining
populations & at risk*



*Long-term
implications &
"umbrella effect"*

SC Threatened - Nesting April - June, Wilson's Plover (3 nests 2018), Least Tern (53 nests 2018)



Risk of Threatened without conservation efforts - Nesting April - June - American Oystercatcher, Willet, Black Skimmer



Declining populations - Migrating or Wintering - Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling

Seabrook Island Stewardship

Nolan Schillerstrom,
SC Audubon



Mark Andrews,
Seabrook Island -
2019 SCDNR Red
Knot Project

Seabrook Island Birders 2020 Stewardship Program

- ◆ Core team: Nancy, Mark, Joleen
- ◆ Mar to May – focus on Red Knot, Piping Plover, Least Tern, Wilson's Plover
- ◆ Endorsed by Town of Seabrook Island – like Dolphin Stewardship
- ◆ Support from SC Audubon & SCDNR
 - ◆ *Training & supplies, i.e. scope, materials*
- ◆ Collaboration with Kiawah Island
- ◆ Recruitment Jan/Feb, Training Feb/Mar





**Seabrook Island
Birders**

watching
learning
protecting

Seabrook Island Shorebird Initiatives

Thank you...for what you all do!!!



Backup Slides



PIPL Research Contacts

Great Lakes Region:

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Bahamas:

The Banding Team from Bahamas National Trust
National Audubon, Virginia Tech and USFWS